

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 MC-02 AID-20 IO-12

ACDA-19 OMB-01 AF-10 RSR-01 /193 W
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R 110641 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0915
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2656

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC COCOM AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC EXPORT CONTROLS

REF: (A) STATE 87397; (B) CANBERRA 2575

1. PER REFTEL (A) PARA 4, TEXT OF WHITLAM ANNOUNCEMENT TERMINATING
AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC CONTROLS AT MAY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE DECISION THAT I NOW GIVE YOU WAS MADE LAST SUNDAY BUT
THERE HAD TO BE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. IT CONCERNS
CONTROLS OVER STRATEGIC EXPORTS.

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A DECISION ON A REPORT BY
DEPARTMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF STRATEGIC EXPORT CONTROLS OVER
COMMERCIAL TRADE.

QUOTE IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL NO LONGER MAINTAIN
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ON COMMERCIAL TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, EASTERN EUROPE, CHINA, NORTH KOREA, NORTH VIETNAM AND CUBA, RESTRAINTS DIFFERENT FROM THE RESTRAINTS ON COMMERCIAL TRADE MAINTAINED ON ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

QUOTE IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT CONTROLS BY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PROGRESSIVELY REDUCED, AND THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE SELLING HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MATERIAL TO THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

QUOTE WE HAVE NOTIFIED A NUMBER OF OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS OF THIS DECISION AND HAVE ASSURED THEM THAT AUSTRALIA WILL NOT BE A MEANS TOWARDS CIRCUMVENTING ANY CONTROLS WHICH THEY MAY MAINTAIN OVER THEIR OWN PRODUCTION.

QUOTE THIS DECISION HAS NO BEARING ON THE CONTROLS WHICH ARE MAINTAINED BY AUSTRALIA OVER THE EXPORT OF ARMS AND WARLIKE STORES AND ATOMIC ENERGY MATERIAL.

QUOTE THE EMBARGO ON TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM IS BEING REMOVED AND WE VIEW THAT THIS IS APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. END QUOTE.

2. DURING BALANCE OF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING Q AND AS REFERRED WHITLAM ANNOUNCEMENT:

QUOTE Q: ON TRADE -- WILL THIS AFFECT OUR TRADING RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA?

QUOTE A: THERE IS AN EXCEPTION IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA BECAUSE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED RESOLUTIONS ON THAT. THESE CONTROLS WILL BE STRICTLY APPLIED.

QUOTE Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT SORT OF THINGS WE COULDN' T EXPORT UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM WHICH WE CAN NOW EXPORT? COULD YOU NAME SOME OF THEM?

QUOTE A: YOU REMEMBER ALL THE CONTROVERSY OVER STEEL AND TALLOW IN PREVIOUS YEARS. PERMITS WERE ALWAYS GIVEN FOR THEM TO BE EXPORTED, BUT THERE HAD TO BE THE PROCEDURE OF PERMITS. SO ALL OF THE PROCEDURE INVOLVED WAS PAPERWORK AND THE NET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESULT WAS THE SAME. END QUOTE.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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